

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2452

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed Action: Archery Range Improvement Project.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development. Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

3. Project Title: Marias Valley Archers Shooting Range (MVASR) Improvement Project

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Loren Skartved	Mike Pederson
810 6 th St. South	807 Oilfield Ave.
Shelby, MT 59474	Shelby, MT 59474
406-424-2256	406-424-5751

Resolution Date: June 16, 2005

5. Cooperating Agencies and/or Supporting Groups: City of Shelby, Toole County Extension Office, Toole County Commissioners, Rockin' 4-H Club, Blazin' Arrows 4-H Archery, Bowhunter's Education Program, and Hunter's Education Program.

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

Approximately 65 acres leased from the City of Shelby, MT
W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 15, Township 32 north, Range 2 West, M.P.M.

7. Project Size: Project affects less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the entire acreage leased for the 65 acre range. There is approximately 1 acre of dry stream bed running through the property, with temporary run-off water only in the wettest part of the wettest years. On the extreme southwest end of the property there is approximately 1 acre of wetlands which eventually drains into Lake Sheloole to the west.

8. Map:

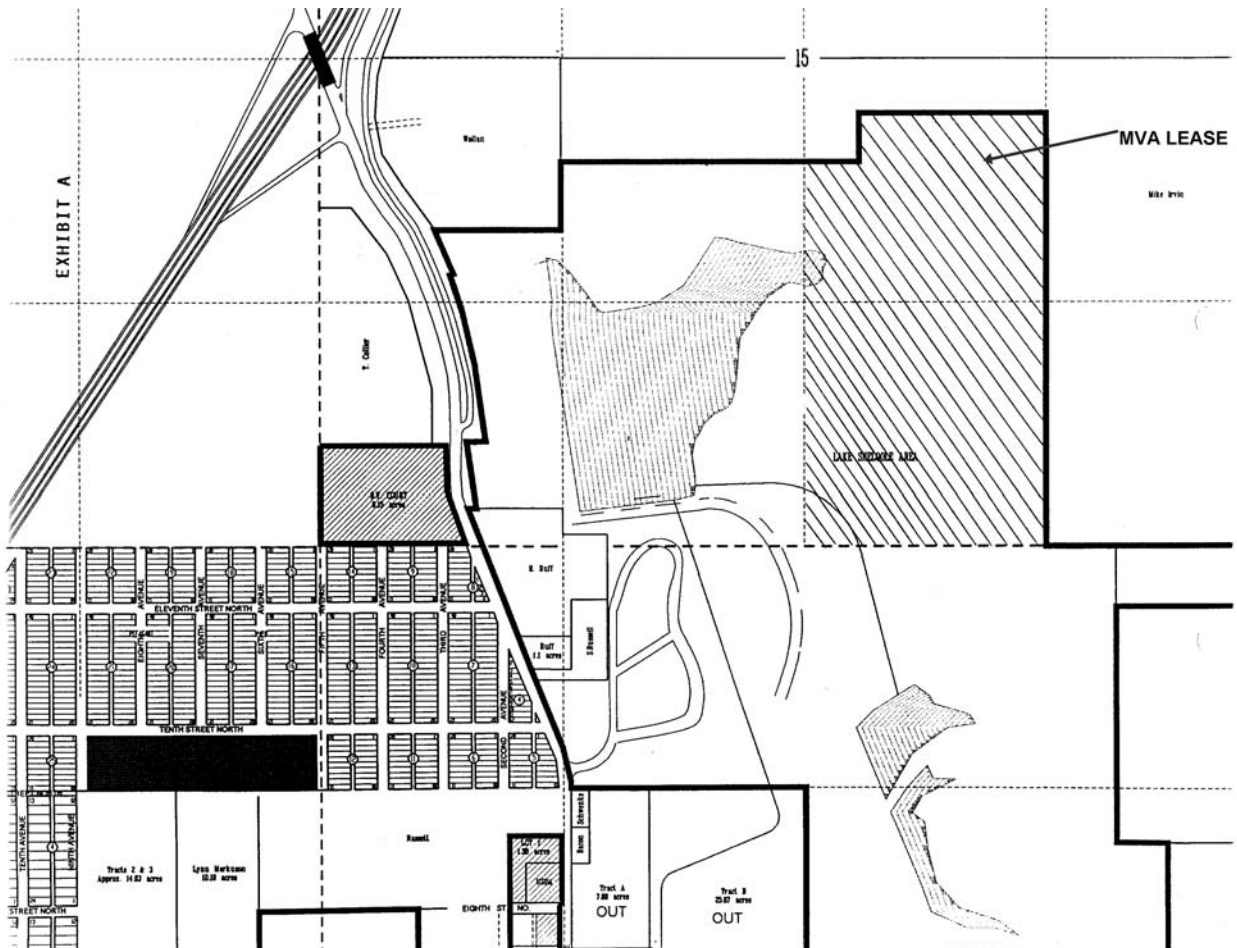


Figure 1 - MVA Lease Area



Figure 2 - Aerial View of MVA Lease area (Upper right) & Shelby

9. Description of Project:

MVA has leased the property from the city of Shelby for approximately 15 years and currently holds a 10 year lease initiated on 1 July 2000.

Project design is 100% complete.

Project Summary Schedule:

2005: (a) Develop walkway and add Millings (b) Dig Sand Pits (c) Build backstops (d) Build & install target hangers (e) Install tables & bench (f) Install bow racks & shooting stakes

2006: (a) Pour cement pad (b) Pour cement floor (c) Plant trees (d) erect signage

Range work will be completed in phases as funding and volunteer labor is available. Install handicap walkway approximately 100 yards long and 12 feet wide along shooting lane. Concrete target hangers and markers in place. Dig and fill sand pits approximately 4 feet high by 20 feet long as arrow backstops, preventing stray arrows and protecting arrows. Pour 8'X12' concrete shooting pad with bench and bow rack for waiting shooters. Install 3 concrete tables for bow tuning, shooter preparation, outdoor classroom instruction, etc. Develop one handicapped parking spot in parking area. Install 10 target hangers for bag targets in concrete. Install shooting stakes/markers on shooting lanes. Concrete in floor of existing storage shed. Erect signage at entrance of range, at parking area and some boundary points on metal posts cemented in. Trees will be planted along shooting lane/walkway to obscure individual shooting groups and targets from other shooting areas and provide a safety screen for infrequent stray arrows.

Project to be completed June 2006.

10. Listing of any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
	None	

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$8,105
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11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
MSU Extension Service

PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		X
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		X
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		X
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams, irrigation ditches or ponds on the site. No delineated wetlands. However, there is a dry bed that drains the area in the wettest periods of only the wettest years. It covers approximately 1 acre and terminates in at least 1 acre of wetland as it enters Lake Sheloole to the south. None of the shooting activities take place in that wetland. New walkways will keep shooters and observers away from dry stream bank and lead them across the bed at only designated spots.

4. Adjacent land surrounding and on the slopes of the shooting area are open grasslands, with sparse low brushy vegetation in the draws. MSU Extension Specialist surveyed the area for noxious weeds and found no major evidence of any. The MVA Club will monitor the area for erosion and noxious weeds. There are no threatened, endangered or species of special concern in the area of the range lease.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment .

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		X
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		X
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

4. The site is located at the edge of an agricultural area primarily utilized for grazing. Site is city land that has been leased for the archery range for sometime. Agricultural practices on the surrounding areas will continue.

5. Improved target areas/sand pits, delineated walkways and shooting lanes, and safety screen tree plantings will all enhance safety for the shooters and observers. MVA follows best practices and established archery safety standards of the National Bowhunter Education Foundation's (NBEF) International Bowhunter Education Program which is acknowledged and accepted worldwide.

7. Greatly improved quality archery activities. Range will provide year round access and handicapped accessibility. Organizations have been contacted and the range will be open to bow hunter education classes, 4-H, & Boy Scouts. Range is open to the public during normal operating times and is handicapped accessible.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the proposed alternative (range improvements), such as increased range safety, recreational opportunities, bowhunter education training and increased recreational activity within the community. The no action alternative would be not to improve the range and continue on with present activities. Present activities also include occasional shooting activities on existing or other temporary ranges. However, using safely designated, designed and supervised ranges, such as the improvements in the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations): NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Mike Pederson, MVA President

Loren Skartved, MVA Project Manager

Narrative Evaluation and Comment:

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. Due to the long successful history of the operation of this range, and the minor nature and insignificant effects of the proposed action, this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative. The strong positive public support, and the support of the City of Shelby and the Toole County Commission combined with the potential for further enhancing an important resource to the shooting sports and bowhunter education resources of the Shelby area and the State of Montana, all support the approval of the proposed alternative. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative for the archery range improvements for the Marias Valley Archers.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: August 20, 2005

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any: Project has passed through the Shelby City Council, articles printed in the Shelby Promoter, Legal Notice of Lease, and City newsletter article.